(d) what is Government's reaction to the terms in favour of the Japanese having been accepted by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under examination. The results of examination will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Steel Plants

2636. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose not to allow setting up of new public sector steel mill; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government plan to raise production of steel through modernisation and expansion of existing mills; and

(c) what is Government's policy regarding setting up of steel mills in joint or private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) In view of the limited availability of resources, Government propose to utilise such resources for the expansion and modernisation of existing steel plants in the public sector.

(b) Modernisation and expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant is in progress. In case of IISCO and Bokaro Steel Plants, the modernisation proposals are under consideration of the Government.

(c) The new industrial policy has removed 'iron and steel' from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. The Central Government's approval is therefore not required for the establishment of new steel plants in the private or joint sector outside the restricted areas.

Import of Boiler by SAIL

2637. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL ordered a £ 7 million Boiler from Britain, whereas India has indigenous technology and capacity to manufacture the same; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No., Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Participation in Steel in Orissa

2638. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. have conducted negotiations with some foreign companies/NRIs willing to set up the proposed second Steel Plant in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No Sir, Government have not conducted negotiations with foreign companies/NRIs for setting up the second steel plant in Orissa. However, the Government of Orissa has intimated that it has on 1.11.1991 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swraj Paul of the Caparo Group of United Kingdom to set up an integrated steel plant at Daitari.